

# HELMET

*Sept 2020*  
*No 504*



*See pg 20 for story*

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### Alveston Methodist Church

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### Stewards

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*Views expressed by contributors are not necessarily those of the Helmet editors or committee.*

*With thanks to Ken Pearce for the front cover*

We welcome articles and news of interest from individuals and groups within the Parish of Alveston. Please send articles, digitally when possible, to [alvestonmag@gmail.com](mailto:alvestonmag@gmail.com)

Or deliver to the post box at 1 Beech Close, Alveston. BS35 3NH, marked 'for Helmet'.

### EDITORS:-

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Hopefully this magazine will have been delivered IN PRINT to YOUR door and to over 1400 others. We particularly welcome newcomers to our village to this the village magazine which has been serving the community in many ways for over 40 years. If you missed the lockdown Helmet magazines they are accessible from [sthelensalvs.co.uk](http://sthelensalvs.co.uk). This one has an eclectic mix of content for you so put the kettle on then sit down to enjoy. I am really pleased that some of our younger people have sent in articles and photos of things important to them.

We have more local history – this time on cricket, a clock and 'chapels', and an appeal from the museum. I see that there has been quite a lot of exchange of information on local history on the Facebook groups. Maybe some of the photos shared there can be included in our magazine providing permission has been obtained from the people in them and and the copyright holder. (The person who took the image - or the gorilla should that be the case!). Here is an image of a cover from 1997. I wonder what's in that time capsule, to be opened in 2097?

Various organisations have taken this opportunity to keep you in touch – such as the Parish Council, twinning group, scouts, library and allotments. There is information on the availability of funding from Alveston Trust, and also on the Welcome Packs which I trust will be delivered by a friendly neighbour to newcomers.

Do please send in items on things of interest to you and yours. Although we can't promise to include them all we will do our best. And don't forget that all this is only possible because the magazine is paid for by our advertisers – do use them and let them know you saw them here.

Diane Barnard





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Thornbury Baptist Church	9:15, 11:00 and 6:30 most Sundays, check the website
Tytherington Baptist Church	Sundays at 11:00

## FROM THE ALVESTON METHODIST CHURCH MINISTER

A little while ago I visited my mum who lives in the house I grew up in, which is the house that my grandparents bought in the 1950s. Whilst there I noticed a drainpipe, time had taken its toll and the drainpipe needed a new coat of paint. However, as I looked, I could see layers of paint going back at least forty years, I remember the drainpipes, gutters, and facias being black and I can remember them being red in the 1980s. But now looking at the layers I can see that at some point it was painted blue, grey, yellow, and even a kind of peachy colour! I vaguely remember seeing photos of the house with yellow paint (before my time in the 1970s!) but the layers taught me something new. These layers reveal history, and you might think I am a bit odd when I write this, but I think there is something beautiful about them.

In these last few months many people have struggled with lockdown, with isolation, and the lack of human contact. It has reminded me that we have lots of layers, and we each face challenges in our lives. We might struggle with mental health, we might struggle without being busy, we might struggle with fear of what the future will look like for us, we might struggle with all sort of things. But we don't have to feel embarrassed or hide those things away – because God says we, with all our layers, are beautiful! In 1 Corinthians 3:16 Paul asks, “don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in your midst?”



God loves us as we are. In years to come, we will look back at this strange time as one more layer, and I pray we will be able to see God among us, helping us to be who we are created to be – layers and all. Layers are beautiful! So are yours and mine and God is in them all!

With every blessing,

Simon

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## TREES FOR ALVESTON

Planting a tree in your garden is a great way to help combat climate change. Tree planting is the biggest and cheapest way of taking carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere and reducing pollution. It is easy and do-able so if you can, I'd encourage you to do it.

It could also be a rewarding community project for Alveston. Project ideas were forming last Autumn and Alveston Parish Council set aside a £500 budget. But then Covid-19 happened and planning was delayed. However, our intention is to pick up where we left off and go ahead with some tree planting in the Parish. We have yet to secure a suitable site but still aim to plant some saplings over the winter months.

Anyone interested in being involved with the planting and/or ongoing aftercare, please get in touch.

We would also be keen to hear from any landowners within the Parish who have space for us to plant trees.

Shirley Whyte Alveston Community Forum. 07788445415



## ALVESTON METHODIST CHURCH NEWS & NOTES

We have written to many of our members and attendees who have supported the church over the years. They have been asked two questions. First, do they want to return to church under the temporary conditions that we must observe, eg. Reduced numbers because of spacing of chairs, face masks, attendance recorded for Test and Trace purposes, no refreshments, recorded music, quiet prayers and no singing?

Second, help is needed to facilitate worship by moving chairs, clearing the cobwebs, putting Covid-19 protection measures in place, helping people to know what to do when they arrive and leave and cleaning touched surfaces at the end.

We look to God to lead us in all that we seek to do. Much prayerful reflection is going on about the direction we should take. If you have any thoughts on ways of worship and keeping the building alive please let us know. We have even had a Church Council meeting in the car park. We were blessed with a dry morning!

Due to lack of Church members who are able to run the Lunch Club the decision has been made, with great reluctance, that it will be unable to continue in its current form. We have become increasingly dependent on outside help which has always been there when we needed it. As this has been a central part of village life for so long and the highlight of the week for many, it is hoped there will be enough volunteers to set up a Community Lunch Club sometime in the future. It has been 17 years of fun, love and laughter shared with so many.

We have been livening up the link fence along the side of the car park with items that show how thankful we are for all God's gifts. There are photos, pictures, verses and crafted, colourful contributions from the community. It is a community offering to cheer us up and you are welcome to add to it over the summer. We will still be going ahead with our 50 year anniversary which starts in January 2021. We already have a celebration banner ready. Some of our plans may have to be changed. We hope to have an event each month from January to December.

## Meanderings:

### God is teaching us a new song, for a new land

And now we know something new.  
We know the world is not ours to control,  
& that our plans are confounded by the smallest microbe.

And now we know something new.  
We know that church is not committees, agendas and buildings.  
It is us, in homes, streets, hospitals throughout the world.

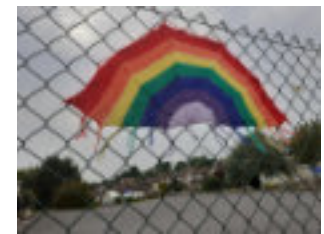
And now we know something new.  
We only have today with those we love, today is the day  
To say, 'I love you', to mend an argument, to hold on tight.  
*God is teaching us a new song, for a new land.*

*Revd Michaela Youngson*

Are you singing a new song? Are you ready to face a new land where so much has changed since a year ago? In September we usually begin to think about returning to our hobbies after the summer break. It's difficult but if we have a 'can do' attitude we can then think about the hobbies and clubs that will still be open. Instead of swimming at the Activity Centre how about some wild swimming or testing the temperature in the sea? Maybe not. Alternatives are needed. You must choose for yourself whether to improve your photography or knitting, learn to play guitar or take up yoga. Whatever you decide on, may your new song help to make a new, peaceful and worthwhile land.

The fruit of the Spirit is a biblical term that sums up nine attributes of a person or community living in accord with the Holy Spirit. The fruits are listed in Galatians, ch5 and are love, joy, peace,

patience, kindness, goodness,  
faithfulness, gentleness & self control.  
hard work and careful tending. By letting  
God into our lives and using the gifts  
listed above we will be ready to be new  
people for God's new world.



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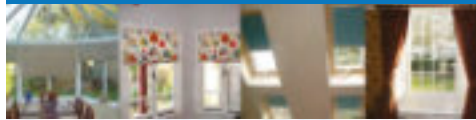
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## ST HELEN'S CHURCH NEWS

As lock down restrictions were lifted we were delighted to receive permission to open our doors again and welcome people to our one weekly service at 10.30am on a Sunday morning. Albeit to limited numbers with everyone wearing masks and sitting socially distanced. None the less it has still been wonderful to be able to worship together again.

Currently we are still continuing to post our on line services and the Church is open on a Wednesday afternoon between 2 and 4pm for people to come and visit to sit quietly.

September sees the start of Harvest Festival Services in churches all over the country. A time of celebration when we give thanks for the food and provisions that God has given us. These services will go on as on page 25.

At our Churches it is traditional for all donations of food stuffs to be delivered to the Loaves and Fishes project in St Pauls for onward distribution to those in need. Sadly, the number of people in need was steadily increasing before the catastrophic effects of the Virus. Hopefully with your help our Harvest collections will provide substantial supplies. The food collection bins are placed outside the Church every day so donations can be easily given. Please consider putting an extra tin or packet in your grocery order to help those less fortunate.

Sadly, as yet none of our clubs and events are able to take place but please keep an eye on the website where any changes will be posted.

As our annual **MACMILLAN WORLD'S BIGGEST COFFEE MORNING** cannot be celebrated in the usual way Tracey Black will hold a Cake Sale on the drive of 31 Greenhill Road on Friday 25 th September between 10-12 noon. Any donations of cake for this event will be gratefully received. Please do come along and support this event.



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## A Little Reminder: Save the Planet!

Before Coronavirus one thing that was constantly on the news was Climate Strikes and climate change but ever since this virus we seem to have forgotten it almost completely. Masks are being littered all over our countryside and on street sides harming the wildlife we still have. People are in their cars more than ever polluting our air, damaging the ozone layer. In fact, I had almost forgotten about it until I listened to a podcast episode all about Greta Thunberg, the Swedish activist who has inspired many. It reminded me that even more than ever we need to think about ways we can protect ourselves but are still sustainable and don't damage our planet.

But you may be thinking what is climate change, why is it happening? Normally people only tell you part of the reason why: man is doing it all on its own but that is not true. It is a natural occurrence.

**What is Climate Change?** An example of climate change is the ice age because the distance from the sun was farther meaning it had less heat and the planet cooled down. But this time climate change is happening in the opposite direction: we are getting heat. The heat is because we are actually getting closer to the sun which is the complete opposite of what happened all those billions of years ago.

But the human race is speeding up this process by destroying the ozone layer by releasing gases like Methane and CO2 which are part of our carbon footprint.

### What are we doing to cause it?

There are so many things that we are doing that causes gases to destroy our atmosphere. People tend to call it our carbon footprint. An example of it is driving to work when instead you could cycle on your bike which has a far lesser impact on our environment. Choosing to cycle instead of driving is better because you are not emitting carbon and you are also benefiting your self by exercising. But sometimes that cannot be an option, sometimes you cannot cycle to work so you have to drive to work. If we were not in these times I would suggest using public transport but it would provide a health risk to you and that would not be sensible.

Another thing we are doing is we are wasting precious resources. In your smartphone, computer, tablet and in batteries is something called Lithium which is mined from our Earth. Many people don't give a second thought about their computer, which still has some life but could use a new replacement part, but they

buy a new 'cool' computer which is extremely expensive. And what they do to the old computer is throw it away because they think it is useless, wasting the precious Lithium inside it.

Something that we are doing that is increasing our Carbon footprint quite a lot is cutting down trees. Trees are very important because they hold the Carbon we emit and they absorb it because they need it to help them grow. In the process of doing this they actually release Oxygen which is great for us as it is what we breathe in. By cutting down trees not only are we taking away our precious 'lungs of the Earth' but we are releasing Carbon which damages our Atmosphere and then hurts us.

Those are only three ways we are harming the planet but there are so many more things like Plastic Pollution and burning fossil fuels.

**What can we do to help?** There are so many ways to help and if we all do something small every day then it will account to the bigger picture and help to slow down climate change.

### Here is a list of things that you could do to help:

- Save envelopes you get from companies that you don't use then simply add a label over the things that you don't need on it and use it as an envelope.
- Plant bee-friendly flowers and plants in your garden.
- Plant a tree
- Grow your own fruit and vegetables
- Use products that support the environment by using alternative packaging to plastic or use products that could be recycled using Teracycle ( a recycling program )
- Install water butts and collect rainwater to water your plants.
- Consider finding a greener way to power your home like using Solar Panels.
- Use energy efficient machines so you don't waste energy
- Find an alternate way to get there other than using the car. If you can, walk or cycle to a place you want to go to do it. Especially with walking or cycling to work it can help you to avoid those early traffic jams which could make you late.
- Change your diet – Instead of eating meat all the time add in a vegetarian meal to help the planet.
- Change conventional light bulbs to LED

These are only a few ways that you can help save the planet. Think green, be sustainable.

Eleanor Baxter



## THORNBURY CRICKET CLUB

*Thornbury Cricket Club is adjacent to the Premier Inn Hotel and is overlooked by most of the bedrooms. The cover picture is the old village pump, which stands in the corner of our ground. This was abandoned when the Thornbury Rd was widened in the 1960's and left "over the wall". It now stands as a memorial to the late Derek Hawkins, who played for Gloucestershire and was one of our most prominent members, being an ex-Chairman and President until his death in 2011. Many readers will remember Derek as the nice man at Berkeley Vale Motors next door to the ground.*

*The club was founded in 1871 by Dr Edward Mills Grace, older brother of the more famous Dr William Gilbert Grace (W.G.). W.G. played for Thornbury Cricket club on 51 occasions together with many other members of the famous cricketing family. Over the years 24 Graces played for Thornbury, most of whom were doctors. In 1880 three brothers Edward Mills, William Gilbert, and George Frederick Grace, all being members of Thornbury CC, played for England at the Oval in the first Ashes match against Australia.*

*Thornbury's first and second teams alternate home and away on Saturdays in the West of England Premier League while the thirds and fourths compete in the Bristol and District league playing nearby at Tockington Manor School.*

*It is our policy to develop local young talent through the age groups and into our senior teams. Our junior section has over 160 registered players; we have been accredited with Clubmark status and are a Focus Club. This year we are starting a new girls cricket team in association with Tockington Manor School.*

*Thornbury CC welcomes new players of all ages and abilities. We also offer social membership for non-players with a regular programme of functions throughout the year, including Coffee Club every Thursday morning which is open to everyone. We have a well-stocked bar which is open during cricket, and to which visitors and supporters are always welcome.*

*Our comfortable clubhouse is available to hire for Parties, wakes, and celebrations, and we are always pleased to have interaction with our local communities in the Thornbury and Alveston area.*

*Want to know more?*

*Come along any summer Saturday and ask for me.*

*Les Summerfield, President*



For many this year it has and continues to be very uncertain and I would like to say a huge thanks to our 2<sup>nd</sup> Alveston Leaders for continuing to make time for our young scouts, cubs and beavers and for running online meetings in place of our usual venue. Despite this they have still managed to earn badges and keep up the values of scouting, The Scouts managed a live cook event making and baking cookies, which remarkably were even edible, and the cubs managed a cake in a mug, no mean feat with excitable cubs I can tell you!

The scouts have even made new friends via a number of "online campfires" with a Scout group in Idaho USA and have been learning facts about each others counties and how we are different and the same. There have been a number of events including a webcast from one of the Scouting Ambassadors, Tim Peake, and also I believe the first digital weekend camp. Whilst it is a difficult time it has allowed 2<sup>nd</sup> Alveston's Scouts Cubs and beavers the time to embrace the values of Integrity, Respect, Care, Belief and Co-operation.

As you know many organisations are suffering financially and Scouting throughout the UK and the world is not exempt from this, 2<sup>nd</sup> Alveston group are hopeful that in late Sept / Oct we can return to a form of face to face scouting in the open and get our walking boots on and enjoy the autumn countryside. As a group we usually hold a number of events during the year to help raise funds but as they often involve direct contact with our community sadly this has not been possible. We hope to still be able to sell Christmas trees this year in some form or another and will keep you posted on this and any other events and hope you can support us to keep our young people engaged and excited about the world around us.

If you would like to help out or find out more about 2<sup>nd</sup> Alveston Scouts, Cubs or Beavers, please contact me initially on chair.2ndalveston@cesd.org.uk

Adrian Baxter - 2<sup>nd</sup> Alveston Exec Group Chairman, Cotswold Edge Scout District  
[www.cesd.org.uk](http://www.cesd.org.uk)

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(Minicom 01454 868010). Text Service 07950 080111

Social services Emergencies 01454 866114.

Adult Care/Mental Health 01454 868007.

Children and young People 01454 868008.

Benefits 01454 868002 (Report suspected fraud 0800 073 7377)

Council Tax 01454 868003

Environmental Health and Trading Standards 01454 868001

Housing 01454 868005.

Leisure and Libraries 01454 868006.

Leisure centres 0300 333 0300

Planning & Transportation 01454 868004

Street Care 01454 868000, [streetcare@southglos.gov.uk](mailto:streetcare@southglos.gov.uk) (dog warden,  
rubbish and recycling etc)

For more information [www.southglos.gov.uk](http://www.southglos.gov.uk)

## UTILITIES

Electricity network 0845 7331331;

Gas leak – 0800 111999

Police/Crime – non emergency call 101.

Sign up for community alerts [www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/account](http://www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/account)

Local policing team – [www.police.uk/avon-and-somerset/CN212/](http://www.police.uk/avon-and-somerset/CN212/)

Neighbourhood Watch – register at Ourwatch [www.asnwa.org/](http://www.asnwa.org/)  
registration;

Fraud prevention & alerts [www.actionfraud.police.uk](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk) 0300 123 2040

Crimestoppers - Report anonymously 0800 555111.

<https://crimestoppers-uk.org>

Health – NHS advice for non emergency situation 111 (24 hours).  
[www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk).



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

The following groups and organisations meet regularly in normal circumstances :

St Helen's Pre-school Little Stars at St Helen's School: Mon-Fri 8:50-15:30  
Toddler Group, Alveston Methodist Church Hall: Mondays 9:45-11:45 (term time)  
Orthopaedic Pilates, CTK: Mondays 9:30am from 6<sup>th</sup> April (07977632003)  
Fitness Pilates, Alveston Youth Centre: Tuesdays 11:00  
Thornbury & S Glos Amateur Radio Club, The Chantry: Wed 7:30pm (413 177)  
Luncheon Club, Alveston Methodist Church Hall: Thursdays 2:15  
Zumba Fitness, St Helen's School: Thursdays 6-6:55 pm and 8:05-9pm  
Fitness Pilates, St Helen's School: Thursdays 7-7:55 pm  
Thornbury Chamber Players: MC: fortnightly Thurs 7:45-9:45 pm  
Sharon Phillips School of Dancing, St Helen's School: Mondays; Jubilee Hall: Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs, Sat; Alveston Youth Centre: Fri and Sat.  
Play and Praise, Alveston Methodist Church Hall: 1st and 3rd Fridays 2:15-3:15  
Breakfast Club, Alveston Methodist Church Hall: 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays 10:00

Please pass on your annual programmes and details of future events (deadline 1<sup>st</sup> of the month) to Tony Houghton, 2 Beanhill Crescent, BS35 3JG. They can be accepted by email to [Diaryhelmet@btinternet.com](mailto:Diaryhelmet@btinternet.com)

PLEASE NOTE THAT DUE TO COVID-19 MANY EVENTS HAVE STILL BEEN CANCELLED OR POSTPONED. NEWS STILL GOES OUT OF DATE QUICKLY. WE SUGGEST THAT YOU CHECK WITH THE ORGANISERS IF YOU ARE UNSURE.

### SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL INDEPENDENT BUSINESSES

Lots of them advertise in the Helmet

There's not much you can't buy at The Parade. Paul Jones greengrocers are taking orders for deliveries .

There should be less risk of infection and silly scrummages.

### ALVESTON REPAIR CAFÉ

The September Repair Café will not take place and it is likely that the November one will also not happen. The community of volunteers (as with other **Repair Cafés**) is not ready to reopen as it is felt to be too difficult to have a worthwhile event whilst socially distancing.

If anyone is interested in running an online Repair Café, whereby customers book their item in on line, are allocated a repairer where the item has to be dropped off, and the repairer delivers the item back please contact me and we can discuss the details.

Meanwhile, I look forward to some time in the future when a normal event will be allowed.  
Peter Waller,

Thornbury URC Saturday Coffee Morning will not be restarting in the foreseeable future. The Traidcraft Stall will be there on a trial basis providing sufficient volunteers come forward, complete with log-in book, PPE and sanitiser. on **Saturday 5th September, 10am to 12 noon**. The stall does currently have several special offers, as well as stocks of most of the regular sellers.

### MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING SALES 25<sup>th</sup> Sept,

From 10-12 at 31 Greenhill Rd (on the drive)

#### Services at St Helen's

6th September 10.30am All Age Worship with Communion  
13 th September 10.30am All Age  
20th September 10.30am All Age Worship with Communion  
27 th September 10.30 am All Age Worship  
4 th October 10.30am Harvest Festival Service

#### St Mary's Littleton Upon Severn

13th September 4pm Harvest Festival

#### St John's Elberton

11 th October 12 noon Harvest Festival

## SOME LOCAL HISTORY

### Growing Chapels

Did you watch 'A House Through Time' on television? The present series features a Bristol home; originally built as one of three for wealthy residents with clear views down to the source of their wealth – the harbour with its ships returning home laden with sugar to feed the developing Bristol refinery businesses. Of course, today, it is surrounded by a dense collection of buildings.

Following its building, the second Wesleyan Methodist Chapel to be built in Bristol was opened on the opposite side of Guinea Street (decades before the original Greenhill or Down Chapels). John Wesley preached there on a number of occasions. The television programme pointed out that he did not preach on the subject of slavery there, although John Wesley was a great supporter of abolitionism. His 1736-7 visit to America left him hating slavery and, in 1774, he wrote a tract called *Thoughts on Slavery* and he proposed a boycott of slave produced sugar. These views would have been well known to the wealthy Guinea Street residents, most of whom probably derived their wealth from the slave trade and/or the sugar trade. He did, however, preach there about the moral imperative to help the poor which could also have been unwelcome. This is a subject upon which he would have preached when visiting Thornbury and one that he would have raised if he ever preached in Alveston where there was poverty amongst quarry and agricultural workers. John Wesley, himself, lived by this principle. With an annual income of £30 he lived on £28 and gave £2 to the poor. When the sale of his books grew he still lived on £28. When his annual income rose to £60 he lived on £28 and gave £32 to the poor and, when his income rose to £120, he still lived on £28 and continued to do so all his life.

The Guinea Street Chapel was obviously larger with more amenities than either of the two Alveston Chapels. Almost from its opening, however, it was too small for the Fellowship. Unlike us, they did not wait to mark the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of their building as we will celebrate that of the current

Alveston Church building in 2021. A little under fifty years after Guinea Street opened it was replaced by the Langton Street Chapel. Whereas the trustees of the original Greenhill Chapel were able to obtain adjoining land to build a large chapel, those of Guinea Street Chapel failed to find some to expand their original chapel and a new one was built a short distance away. This opened on 19 June 1828 (17 years after the original Alveston Chapel was opened) when almost £400 was given in the collections. The new Langton Street Chapel was much larger than the current Alveston Methodist Church. Unlike the present Greenhill building, it was built in a traditional style with galleries on three sides and had seating for 1200 with a burial ground of comparable size with a school for boys and girls next to it. It was destroyed by a bomb during the last war.

If anyone can remember the old chapels or the opening of the new building or has any photographs of them which you are happy to share, please let Christine Dugdale (01454 41309) know and help us to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the present Greenhill Methodist Church building in 2021.



**Friends of Marlwood (FOMS)** would like to wish all the students and staff at Marlwood School a successful start to the academic year in September.

We welcome new and current Marlwood parents to join your FOMS PTA to build upon the success of the last few years.

Now more than ever we need to support our school in all socially distanced school activities. Please join us by showing your commitment and email [info@foms.co.uk](mailto:info@foms.co.uk) for ways you can help.





## ALVESTON - COURVILLE-sur-EURE

In “normal” times, we would be making final arrangements for the visit of our friends from Courville. Sadly, due to Covid 19, the 33rd exchange of our 2 communities was postponed very soon after the start of lockdown. Looking at the situation now, it has proved to be a correct decision. We have invited them here for the same time in 2021; we welcome any of you who are interested in a friendship with a French family to join us.

Members from here have been in touch with their friends in Courville and learn that they are observing the French regulations and have stayed well.

It is very hard to know when we can all meet again, but be assured that as soon as we are able, the committee will go ahead and hold the very popular Quiz Nights and Whist Drives, where you will be welcomed with open arms. Whether the Christmas Festivities at the Parade will be held we will wait and see and of course we will join in.

We hope that you are all keeping as well as you can in these strange times and we look forward to sunny days ahead.

Valerie Fergyson. Chairman Alveston Twinning Association.

## WELCOME PACKS FOR 2020 ONWARDS

These little information packs for new residents to Alveston have been available for many years through one or other of our two local churches: Alveston Methodist or St Helen's.

The packs have traditionally been a suitable way to give some useful guidance about all that is going on in the village and describe village associations/societies/activities etc. to our new neighbours.

Delivering a Welcome Pack to a new resident can be a good way of attracting new members but it only works well if the “Custodians of the Packs” are kept well supplied with up to date info. about our local community groups. Quite a few houses are for sale in Alveston but the information sheets on file are outdated.

If you would like your activity group included in Welcome Packs please let the current “Custodian of the Packs” have a short write up about your society, support group etc. with contact details so that the Packs can be updated.

Never mind if your group is not able to meet right now due to Covid-19. It is a good time for us all to plan for the future social life of our friendly community in Alveston and area.

Please either email the details to me or write them out and drop them in to 24, Beech Leaze and I will type them out ready to be included in the future distribution of these traditional Welcome Packs.

Thank you.  
Elaine Lee,  
Tel 419322

[elainelee46@virginmedia.com](mailto:elainelee46@virginmedia.com)

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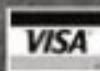
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## THORNBURY & DISTRICT MUSEUM NEEDS YOUR ASSISTANCE WITH A HISTORY PROJECT

PLEASE HELP US GATHER AND KEEP THE LOCAL HISTORY OF CORONAVIRUS (COVID 19) 2020

We invite anyone wanting to participate to keep notes or a diary and/or photos of anything that you, your friends or family experience, good and bad, during this time. This could relate to absolutely anything with a local flavour as national information will be well documented. But please do not send photos of anyone without their permission. By submitting information the museum will assume that you give permission for the material to be used in the future. This could be in print or on-line, in one of our exhibitions, or saved in our archive. You can send us information at any time, or wait until this episode in our history has passed, to [museum.thornbury@gmail.com](mailto:museum.thornbury@gmail.com) or by post to the usual address.

Meanwhile, do visit our Facebook page which can be found on our museum website home page, scroll down to find the blue icon on the left-hand side. <http://www.thornburymuseum.org.uk/>

We also received a request for help from Reg King, one of our volunteers, to photograph and record stone stiles in the area. They have not been systematically recorded and protected by the Historic Environment Record, so this will form a valuable archive too. You can send photos to the same email address and we will save and forward them to Reg.



## THE TOWER CLOCK AT ST HELEN'S CHURCH IN ALVESTON

Reg King keeps our clock running on time. He reports any malfunction to Tower Clocks engineers in Bristol. He kindly provided the following information:

It is a "ting-tang" clock made in 1886 at Ludgate Hill, London by J.W. Benson. It cost about £176. A non ting-tang clock would have cost half that price. It was presented to the Church by Mr Edward Bush that year – 1886. Reg says, "I set it to gain approximately one second per day by means of small weights and polystyrene blocks placed on the main pendulum weight. I then stop it every two weeks or so to bring it back on time. To have it running slow and then speeding it up is impossible.

In the Spring I turn it forward an hour. In the Autumn I stop it for an hour because it is impossible to turn back the mechanism due to all the ratchets etc. Warm air from the Church flows up through the pendulum shaft and brings with it cobwebs which stick to the weight rather like candy floss. This slows the clock down so I have a feather duster to keep it cobweb free.

The exact act hour is the first strike of the bell. (So Hercule Poirot arriving in the Minister's office on the 12 th strike of Big Ben is not mid-day but 12 seconds late in my opinion!")

*Thanks so much Reg. The PCC will finance a new feather duster whenever you need one*





**New Play Frame** The Parish Council is delighted to announce the installation of a new play frame for the children of the Parish located at the Lime Kiln Play area. Please visit then ask your children to provide their feedback to the Parish Council Clerk at [clerk@alvestonpc.co.uk](mailto:clerk@alvestonpc.co.uk). We will be looking to install new equipment elsewhere in the Parish and if you would like to contribute any ideas please contact the Parish Clerk.



**Parish Meetings & Alveston.org** If you are not aware, Alveston Parish Council has created a new website for residents. The address remains the same at [www.alveston.org](http://www.alveston.org). During the period of lockdown, the Parish Council have been holding remote meetings and to ensure that residents and members of the public could still participate a facility has been created on our website to allow you to enter the meeting. Keep a look out for further meetings, whether they be on “Zoom” or in the Jubilee Hall as all dates, times and agendas are published on the home page.

If you are organising a community event in or around Alveston Parish, let your Clerk know and we will publicise it for you. We will always keep this website up to date with important information around the Parish.

**Overhanging Trees** The Parish Council recognise the inconvenience to residents relating to over hanging trees and obstructions to the pavements. The hedge surrounding the Jubilee & Lime Kiln field is always trimmed in September after the bird nesting

season is completed however, we always ensure that any protruding branches particularly at eye level are removed. Also, the over hanging tree branches and low branches from trees at the play area and bordering Greenhill have been lifted. We have received calls from residents concerning similar overhanging bushes blocking pavements, signs and public rights of way. Therefore, we ask if you have bushes or trees at the end of your garden which overhang and could cause a potential obstruction to the public, please trim these back. Thank you.

**Councillor Vacancy** There is a vacancy on the Parish Council! If you can spare a few hours a month and would like to be involved in local issues we would welcome your interest. Please contact any councillor or the Parish Clerk for more information.

### ***Important - Grant Applications***

#### ***All groups operating in or for the Parish please take note***

Each year the Parish Council is empowered to award grants to organisations or groups operating within the Parish of Alveston. The annual budget available for such grant aid is limited and preference will normally be given to non-profit making organisations which are based within the Parish and which demonstrate a benefit to the Parish, or residents of the Parish. Examples may include play schemes, environmental improvements, youth groups, projects, elderly person's groups, cultural or recreational activities. No group seeking funds should feel they are excluded.

Application for a grant must be made by 31<sup>st</sup> October 2020. All applications will be considered during November and all applicants informed of the decision in December.

[clerk@alvestonpc.co.uk](mailto:clerk@alvestonpc.co.uk) or phone 01454 413550.

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## ALVESTON ALLOTMENTS ASSOCIATION

July saw the culmination of a year's hard work for allotment holders when the judging of plots for a number of awards took place. This was carried out by fellow plot holder and experienced judge Ivor Clark, who was particularly impressed by the high overall standard of the allotments - which we think are looking particularly colourful and beautiful at the moment!

This year the title of BEST OVERALL PLOT was awarded to Richard Hiscock who was praised for the high quality of the Runner beans, Brassicas and Asparagus bed on his plot. In second place was Chris Purvis and in third place John O'Leary

The title of the MOST IMPROVED PLOT was awarded to Siobhan Dwan and Chris Hobbs who were praised for all their hard work on the allotment this year.

The title of BEST NEWCOMER was awarded to Jessica Dane, who only took over her plot at the beginning of April and has achieved a huge amount in this short time.

There was an extra prize this year - for the plot holder with the BEST SINGLE CROP growing on their plot and this was awarded to Keith Sargerson for his well cultivated and netted bed of mixed Brassicas.

Congratulations to all these winners - the awards are very well deserved.

Once again we are grateful to Richard Truscott for kindly donating Almondsbury Garden Centre gift vouchers as prizes for the winners.

If you would be interested in joining us, and maybe competing for one of these awards next year, contact the Parish Council clerk Graham Smith on [clerk@alvestonpc.co.uk](mailto:clerk@alvestonpc.co.uk) for your name to be added to the short waiting list.





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## DIARY OF A LOCKDOWN KID (WRITTEN BY A PARENT)

Any parent will readily admit that Lockdown Learning was hard and at times impossible. As attitudes to learning turned to 'I can't', 'I won't' and 'I'm not' I found that the best moments were spent during the daily walk! My son and I have enjoyed the Alveston front gardens and whenever possible we have tried to catch a quick chat with the homeowner to ask about a plant, admire plants that look splendid but don't seem to be doing well in our own garden or to request giant poppy seed heads! This small daily trip has increasingly become a highlight especially as it's grown to observe the wildlife around us too. My photos of plants 'I'd like in my garden' were soon usurped by my son's photos of blooms, features and Alveston bug life a few of which I share in this article.

We started lockdown remaking our garden bug houses and put in new bug spaces in the garden. I found that I was able to finally able to watch Gardener's World on a weekly basis which meant that Monty's words of weeds are just 'flower's in the wrong place' were embraced by my son who now has a 'weed' garden! .



We found time to freeze the 'black bananas' ready for slicing to put out for the butterflies on sunny days and to make a bird feeder out of a plastic bottle ready for when the birds start needing it.

Another highlight was after finally remembering to clean out our bird box in Autumn 2019 and Blue Tit's aborting their attempt to take up home earlier this year, we were rewarded with an out of season pair of Great Tit's taking up residence. Every day our family watched their daily habits or enquired who and at what time the birds had been spotted. And like an extended family we shared the great joy observing the new family fledge in July. Being able to take time to sit and watch what's happening in our garden everyday has been a pleasure.

So apart from remembering to clean out your bird boxes this Autumn we'd just like to say 'Thank You' Alveston for the fabulous flowers and shared conversations during this time.

Jo Baxter

(Photos copyright Jonathan Baxter)





## THORNBURY LIBRARY NEWS

### Limited library services now available

Now COVID-19 lockdown restrictions have eased, our libraries have introduced pre-bookable services to borrow books, DVDs and audiobooks and access a computer and use the Wi-Fi. This is so you can access them in a safe and controlled way. It does mean visiting the library in the way we were all used to before lockdown, for the moment, is not possible.

### Find something to read

You can order up to 6 items to collect at a pre-booked time of your choice. Complete a Click and Collect web form for the library you will collect from online at [sglibraries.eventbrite.com](http://sglibraries.eventbrite.com) or call 01454 865022 Monday to Friday 10am – 4pm; Saturday 9:30am – 12pm and speak to a member of library staff.

### Book for 1 hour free use of a computer or our Wi-Fi using your own device

Call 01454 868006 Monday to Thursday 8:45am - 5:00pm; Fridays 8:45am – 4:30pm

Find the latest information on our website

[www.southglos.gov.uk/librarychanges](http://www.southglos.gov.uk/librarychanges)

### Our free online library is still open 24/7

eBooks, eAudiobooks, eComics, digital magazines and newspapers continue to be available for library members to download anytime -

[www.southglos.gov.uk/eresources](http://www.southglos.gov.uk/eresources) has all the details.

It now also includes *Who Else Writes Like?*, and for children, *Who Next?* where you can find authors who write in a similar way to those you have already enjoyed reading. Simply log in with your library card number and select South Gloucestershire

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**A 15 minute lapse will occur between staff closing time and Open Access starting**

#### STAFFED TIMES

Monday	9.30am-5.30pm
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## CHARITY OF EMILY AMELIA PONTING

Known in recent years as **ALVESTON TRUST** this small charity (No. 203192) is made up of several bequests set up over a century ago to help and support residents of the Parish of Alveston. Although it has now been merged into one charity named after the main benefactress this fund is still open, in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, to receive applications from parishioners who may need a bit of help in difficult times.

The sort of help given recently includes educational grants to help students with College course expenses, community grants given towards the Jubilee Hall upgrades and re-decoration and St Helen's School for library books plus other smaller grants to local individuals. For older residents we have given help towards specific needs to improve quality of life such as a contribution towards mobility aids etc.

**Please note that anyone thinking of applying for a grant must live within the boundary of Alveston Parish.**

At Christmas the Charity gives small sums of money to some parishioners to help out with extra needs and to show that our community is thinking of them.

The Trustees of the Charity of Emily Amelia Ponting are always pleased to hear from anyone who is considering making a donation or bequest to help boost our funds. Several local Clubs and Societies have, in the past, donated proceeds from social events to the Charity which has been most welcome.

**Confidentiality about applications for grants or donations is always observed.**

For more information about how to apply for a small grant or to make a donation please contact the Charity's Chair, Mrs Elaine Lee

Tel. 01454 419322 or email [elainelee46@virginmedia.com](mailto:elainelee46@virginmedia.com)

We have a request for issues 157 – 177 (about 1985-87) and 180-209 (1988 to end 1990) and. 233-255 (April 1993-June 1995) if anyone has a store in their loft.

We need your articles by the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month preceding publication. Send to

**alvestonmag@gmail.com**

Or post to 'Helmet Magazine', 1 Beech Close, Alveston, BS35 3NH.

Deadlines –October edition Sept 1<sup>st</sup> for distribution on or by September 29th



## NOTICEBOARD

### Helmet dates 2020

We collate/deliver on the **LAST Tuesday** of each month

The deadline is the **1<sup>st</sup>** of the previous month. (We are still taking our usual break for January)

**Coroana Permitting**

Edition	Deadline	Collation
Oct	SEPT 1	SEP 29
Nov	OCT 1	OCT 27
Dec	NOV 1	NOV 24

### ALVESTON WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

At the time of going to press the W I committee and some members have managed to meet with distancing regulations in place and virtually using Zoom



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A young person's view on the  
Climate pg 18-19

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